

detecting the operating characteristics of a plurality of nozzles to be used to print said print job; and

comparing said operating characteristics of said plurality of nozzles to said required level of print quality for said print job and, in the event, based on the comparison, that said operating characteristics of said plurality of nozzles are sufficient to meet said level of print quality, printing said print job.

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19-21, 24, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,596,353 to Takada et al., hereafter Takada. This rejection is erroneous because Takada fails to disclose one or more steps of independent claim 1 as amended and one or more elements of independent claim 14.

Takada lacks the steps of determining a level of print quality for the print job and of comparing the required level of print quality with the operating characteristics of a plurality of nozzles. The Examiner reads the step of determining a level of print quality on a reference density described at column 12, lines 58-63. This reference density mentioned in this passage is not mentioned elsewhere in Takada. The examples that follow describe a process of measuring densities, calculating average densities and corrections, but not a reference density. Moreover the passage does not describe any step of determining a level of print quality required for a print job. Thus, a prima facie case has not been established that Takada discloses the step of determining a level of print quality required for the print job.